GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:222
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2001
POWER GRID
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have a proposal to set up a National Grid to solve the problem of power in the country;

(b) if so, the expenditure likely to be incurred for setting up of the National Power Grid;

(c) whether the Power Grid Corporation has since failed to meet the requirement of power in the country;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Asian Development Bank (ADB) or other financial institutions haveagreed to provide loans to the Government for the purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be set up?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (f) : Development of transmission system to form National Power Grid is acontinuous process. At present, Indian Power system is divided into five Regional grids and within each region strong inter-connection and well-developed Regional grids are in position. In order to extend the benefits of generation resources all over the country and to transfer surplus power in one region to a power deficit region, interconnections of regions have been planned.

POWERGRID was established in 1989 with the mission to establish and operate Regional and National Power Grids to facilitate transfer of power within and across the regions with reliability, security and economy on sound commercial principles. POWERGRID, as Central Transmission Utility is responsible for undertaking transmission of energy through inter-state transmission system and evacuation of power from all Central Power Stations and delivery of allocated power to constituent states. POWERGRID has exhibited excellent performance and have received `Prime Minister`s MOU Award` second time in a row by ranking amongst top ten PSUs.

POWERGRID has already chalked out its plan to integrate all the regions through HVDC stations/bi-pole and 765 KV AC rings to facilitate the transfer of power between the regions without any constraint. The HVDC inter regional links between western and northern, western and southern and eastern and southern regions are already existing and HVDC link between eastern and northern region is under construction.

Presently, the inter-regional power transfer capacity has been raised to 4350 MW from a mere 500 MW in 1992-93. For further strengthening of the National Grid, high capacity long HVDC links as well as AC links have been planned to be commissioned along with Mega Projects. With these interconnections, the total inter-regional power exchange capability would be increased to about 14,000 MW by 2004-05. In the ultimate phase, a strong synchronous National Grid has been envisaged to evacuate the power from major generating resources. This would involve development of high capacity transmission corridor in chicken-neck area and establishment of a ring of 765 KV lines interconnecting Eastern, Western and Northern regions. Inter-regional transmission capacity of the proposed ultimate National Grid would increase to about 30,000 MW.

POWERGRID has planned to invest about Rs. 80,000 crores for implementation of projects including those required for development of strong and vibrant National Grid capable of transferring 30,000 MW power by the year 2012. In order to meet the massive investment plan, POWERGRID has been raising loans from the domestic market and international financial institutions like Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank from time to time. ADB has recently approved a direct loan of US $ 250 million to POWERGRID for its grids strengthening, inter-regional and generation linked transmission projects. The loan has become effective from 10th January, 2001. POWERGRID is also negotiating a loan of US$ 450 million from World Bank for implementation of its various transmission schemes.